

# B A N T H A



# T R A C K S

NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FAN CLUB

## EMPIRE: THE INTERNATIONAL MOVIE

From the time STAR WARS was released, excitement about the next part of the saga began to build. Joel Coler, Director of International Advertising and Publicity at Twentieth Century-Fox, the distributor of EMPIRE, remembers: "Here you had a case of the press vying for the privilege of being the first to break any information concerning the film. In some parts of the world, it was the most eagerly awaited film of the year. We had the task of keeping the press itself from over-hyping the film." Alan Arnold, the film's publicist, noted in a journal he kept during the making of EMPIRE, "Media inquiries now average around 130 a week and they come from all over the world; from Alaska to Brazil; from a Norwegian provincial daily to an Australian woman's magazine; from Warsaw to South Africa" (from "Once Upon a Galaxy: A Journal of the Making of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK," by Alan Arnold; Ballantine Books). This was written in April of 1979—over a year before the film was released in the United States.

By that time, Sidney Ganis, Senior Vice-President of Lucasfilm, Ltd., and Joel Coler of Fox were already planning their strategy for foreign distribution. International film distribution requires a completely different strategy than does U.S. distribution. While television is the primary advertising medium in the United States, there is often not enough commercial time available in foreign television markets. In Germany, for example, only four 30-second spots a year can be bought by a particular advertiser, and these must be reserved a year in advance. In France, television is state-owned, and allows no film advertising. For this reason, in Paris, EMPIRE posters were the primary advertising method; they were plastered all over the subway walls.

For each of the 52 foreign countries in which EMPIRE will be released, Coler consulted his thick black notebook describing the country's customs, languages, and regulations. In his Japanese notebook, for example, Coler has noted that in that country dubbing the voices in Japanese makes the film "second-rate" and more like a television movie in the eyes of the audience. He weighed that against the fact that the average moviegoer there ranges in age from ten to seventeen, younger than the U.S. average. Because so many children enjoy STAR WARS, it was decided that dubbing would be preferable in Japan.



Swedish poster

Chinese poster

Japanese poster

Using his notebook for Hong Kong, Coler determined the best release date for the film there—the Chinese New Year. It was standing room only for the holidays.

Sometimes it just is not possible to meet the restrictions imposed by a particular country. For example, Sweden considered EMPIRE too violent. Lucasfilm and Fox decided not to cut the so-called violent sequences and instead to retain the integrity of the film; Sweden allowed only those fifteen or older to see it. Russia, on the other hand, wasn't interested in showing the movie at all.

With so many factors to consider, it often takes a full year for a movie to reach around the world. And sometimes it takes even longer: Kenya, Africa, is just now seeing STAR WARS—subtitled in Swahili, of course. —V.R.

# STAR WARS COSTUMING

The costumes in STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK were crucial to films' look. Costume design on both movies was the domain of John Mollo, whose credits included NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRA, and who had just finished BARRY LYNDON when he was called to work on STAR WARS. The eighteenth-century Ireland of BARRY LYNDON had quite different costuming requirements from a space fantasy set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."

For a period called space fantasy there are not the standard costume reference works there are for other periods. So Mollo turned for information to the creator of this new world. George Lucas. Lucas remembers his plans for the costumes: "I didn't want something very flashy in design; I wanted something very amorphous and vague on the costumes. We tried to keep away from anything that brought attention to itself." With that in mind, Mollo began to gather "all the books there were on science-fiction and science-fiction films; we had a lot of books on the Second World War, we had books on Vietnam, and on Japanese armor." His crew also had sketches done by production illustrator Ralph McQuarrie. "Essentially, those sketches took the place of historical reference for us."

With Lucas's directive in mind and McQuarrie's sketches in hand, Mollo started visiting theatrical costumers. "We tried to find items that were in stock which approximated to the drawings. It was sort of a short cut way of doing it; we dressed the model up in whatever we could find. For instance, Darth Vader had this sort of black motorcycle suit on and a Nazi helmet, and a gas mask, and a monk's cloak we found in the Middle Ages Department."

Pieces of costumes came from all sorts of places. "I started going around the area in London where all the electronics firms are all together, and buying twenty pounds worth of things. They'd say, 'That doesn't go with that.' But I said, 'I don't mind, I'm going to be sticking this on a robot or something!'" The costumers assembled all their finds and "when George came back, it was a live fashion show. George said, 'I don't like that,' or 'I don't like this.'"

Lucas was not the only one making changes in costumes. Harrison Ford remembers a fitting for his Han Solo shirt: "Instead of the small collar, it had a huge Peter-Pan collar. A big rounded thing. And I said, no, that's wrong, can't wear that. And so they took it off. George came in and never missed his collar. He had a concept of [the shirt] but it was loose." Mollo sums this up: "There was very little drawing done. It was really more of a practical make-do and amend." This "make-do" won Mollo an Academy Award for his work on STAR WARS.

Three years after STAR WARS, in 1978, Mollo was back with the Lucas team to work on EMPIRE. Here he had the basic designs from STAR WARS and a few new situations to work on. He designed arctic-wear costumes for the ice-planet Hoth; a new, more glamorous outfit for Leia to wear on Bespin; and a couple of costumes for Lando Calrissian, whose evolution in the film to a more likeable character had to be reflected in his clothes.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New members will receive the EMPIRE kit, which contains a poster, six 8 x 10 color photos, a decal, and other ESB items, and a year's subscription (four issues) to BANTHA TRACKS.

The Wardrobe Department, under Mollo's direction, did more than design the EMPIRE costumes. They kept track of all the outfits—for example, all sixteen sets of Luke's combat uniform, as well as the costumes for the Rebel and the Imperial armies. They also kept all the costumes in good repair. Sometimes, because of the costumes' unusual design, the repairs required more than just a seamstress. For example, Chewbacca's costume "is knitted from angora wool and knotted with yak hair. Once we had to thicken his hair and reknit him because in hot weather he molts."

Mollo has enjoyed his work on the STAR WARS saga: "In the old days, ten years ago, if you complained that something wasn't accurate in the script, the usual cry was, 'Well, if they noticed that, they weren't looking at the film.' But George always goes for the authentic. If it's real, then it's right." —A.H.



Some early Ralph McQuarrie drawings of Darth Vader

One of John Mollo's working sketches for Darth Vader's costume



New membership fees are \$5 (\$6 Canada, \$7 foreign); renewals are \$4 (\$5 Canada, \$6 foreign). Canadian and foreign members must order using international bank drafts or money orders made payable in U.S. currency. Please do not send cash.

# PROFILE

Shawn Clapp is not Luke Skywalker, but when he wears his costume it may take several glances to be sure. If you saw him with a costumed Glen Scroggins—who occasionally is asked for a Harrison Ford autograph—you'd be doubly confused. Both Fan Club members wear authentic-looking STAR WARS costumes. Where did they get them? Simple: the costumes are home-made.

Shawn, a 17-year-old from Redondo Beach, CA, started making sketches for his costume long before the release of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. He used every magazine he could find that showed Mark Hamill in Rebel fatigues. With his imagination, he filled in details lost in grainy photos. Next, Fan Club members Liz Martin and Kris Spooner used Shawn's sketches to turn a modified ski-jacket pattern and bolts of cloth into a costume for the opening of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. After seeing EMPIRE, Shawn, the ultimate perfectionist, began reworking his costume to eliminate all inaccuracies.

Member Linda White of Hidden Hills, CA, made 26-year-old Glen Scroggins's Han Solo outfit. Presented with the idea, she had thought, "How simple—a white shirt, black vest, black pants, and boots." Simple until, on closer examination, she realized that the piping down the pant legs needed to be hand stitched with carpet thread, the white shirt has an intricate pattern similar to a cavalry shirt, and the vest is loaded with pockets. But three attempts at pocket making, several false starts, and long hours of sewing produced Glen's replica of Han's STAR WARS outfit—complete with the vest's back pocket for shell casings.

Making a reasonable replica of an existing costume is more difficult than inventing a costume. The shape, colors and textures all have to be close to the original, so painstaking attention has to be paid to the myriad details that make each costume unique. Kris noticed, for example, that Leia's Bespin outfit has three types of metallic piping: gold, silver and copper. One frequently overlooked detail is shoes. Costumers agree that the best costume can be ruined by the wrong shoes—Luke's costume just would not look the same with "tennis."

But remember that getting the costume right isn't half as important as getting the character right. An enthusiastic "Luke" will overshadow any incorrect details in his costume. Also remember that these costumes were made for fun—not for commercial purposes. All the STAR WARS characters are licensed trademarks owned by Lucasfilm, Ltd., so wearing the costumes for financial gain is illegal—and not in the spirit of our costumers.

Bantha Tracks has prepared some costuming guidelines taken from these costumers and from additional sources. If you would like a copy of this list, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Costume, STAR WARS Fan Club, P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, CA 91608.—M.G.

If you move, remember to send the fan club a change of address card listing your old and new addresses. When writing to the Fan Club, please use a self-addressed stamped envelope to ensure a quick reply.

## FAN CLUB COSTUMERS



Shawn Clapp, dressed as Luke Skywalker, and friend



Glen Scroggins in Han Solo costume



Teresa Perry, left, and Lisa Timchalk with their friend Mark Hamill

## Thank You!

It was almost three years to the day since we first saw STAR WARS. For three long years, we'd tried every way possible to meet Mark Hamill and the rest of the STAR WARS gang. We found out, from the Official STAR WARS Fan Club, that the world premiere of the sequel to STAR WARS, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, was going to be held in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 17, 1980. The entire cast from the movie was going to be there. We had six months to work on it.

When we heard that the Special Olympics was sponsoring the premiere, we made an infinite number of telephone calls to people to try to buy tickets from them, but no one who had tickets would sell them. We sent in almost 100 entries to a sweepstakes contest. We lost. Then we heard that a radio station was holding a poster-making contest with a grand prize of two tickets to the world premiere of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. We heard about this only twenty-four hours before the contest deadline. We worked on our poster from 9:00 that night until we finished it the next morning. We didn't even go to sleep until after we handed the poster in, and then for only four hours. Guess what?! We lost.

Shortly after issue number 9 of the Newsletter appeared, we received the following letter:

The Official STAR WARS Fan Club  
Post Office Box 8905  
Universal City, CA 91608

August 30, 1980

Dear Sirs:

In the Number 9, Summer 1980 issue of Bantha Tracks, you talked about the Washington, D.C., premiere of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. In one of the paragraphs were the following sentences:

"Two not-so-famous STAR WARS enthusiasts managed to obtain seats after sending Mark Hamill a letter indicating their great desire to see the film. Moved by their eloquence, Hamill sent them tickets for the by-then-sold-out show."

We would like to inform you that we are the "two not-so-famous STAR WARS enthusiasts." For proof, we have enclosed a picture of us with Mark Hamill. We have also enclosed a story that we have written about our attending the premiere.

We would like to thank the Official STAR WARS Fan Club, Nancy Hutson, and Marilou York-Hamill for helping to make our most desired dream come true. We would especially like to thank Mark for being himself.

May the FORCE be with you,  
Lisa Timchalk &  
Teresa Perry  
Lisa Timchalk and Teresa Perry

She took us backstage and left us standing there so she could go in the stage door. We were standing in a daze when — lo and behold! — Mark Hamill was coming. He had our note in his hand and he said, "So, you are my two friends who wrote the letter, huh?" We couldn't even answer; we just nodded. It proved everyone wrong who thought that Mark wouldn't answer our letter.

"Well," he said, "I guess you're gonna go in and see the movie now."

"Are we?" Lisa asked.

"We don't have tickets," Teresa said.

"Well... wait a minute." He swung around and went back to the stage door. He talked to someone, and when he came back he said, "I hope you don't mind standing room."

"No!" we said.

"No one's going to believe this," Teresa said.

"Would you like to have a picture?" Mark asked.

Lisa took out her camera and the girl who had brought us back there said she would take the picture. We went and stood on either side of Mark. He said, "Come on," and made us come closer. He put his arms around our shoulders, so we put our arms around him, too. Mark said, "Say Wookiee!" and she took our picture.

Now the three of us were just standing there looking at each other. Mark leaned over and kissed us. He was beaming, probably because he knew how happy he had made us. We were beaming too.

Mark said, "Enjoy the show," then he went back through the stage door.

We floated through the hall and into the theater. In fact, we were floating all through the movie, the rest of the day, and we're still floating now!

*Lisa Timchalk &  
Teresa Perry*

# This EMPIRE Walker could be yours!

"Rebel Recruiter" Buttons for All who Qualify

## Announcing the First Official STAR WARS Fan Club Membership Recruiting Contest!

Lucasfilm, Ltd., is asking you to help the Official STAR WARS Fan Club grow. Since you, the fans, are best qualified to attest to the value of a membership in the Fan Club, we have designed a recruiting contest so that you can help others join. You, as a current Fan Club member entering the contest, will have the opportunity to win prizes based upon your efforts.

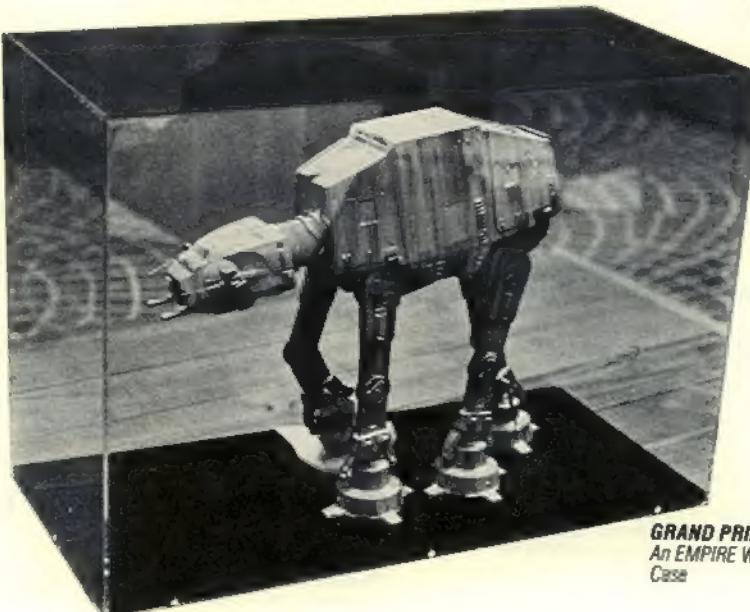
In order to be able to win a prize, you must read and follow carefully the rules and regulations. May the Force be with you!

### CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. *All current Official Star Wars Fan Club members are eligible to enter, except for employees of Lucasfilm, Ltd., and their immediate families.*
2. *Use Application Forms.* All membership applications must be submitted on the application forms provided on the reverse side of this announcement. If you need additional forms, you may use photocopies (such as Xerox copies) of the original forms or hand-printed duplicates of the original forms that include all the same information as the original form.
3. *Members may make only one entry each.* You must send all of your completed application forms, along with appropriate checks or money orders, in a single package. Your package must include:
  - a. All of the completed application forms that you have collected.
  - b. The proper check or money order attached to each application.
  - c. A note indicating your name, address and the total number of applications enclosed in your package.
4. *All entries must be postmarked no later than January 15, 1981.* Foreign entries must be received by January 25, 1981. Any membership applications postmarked or received after these deadlines will be processed through normal channels but will not be credited toward winning of prizes.
5. *No cash will be accepted.* U.S. members must pay with check or money order. Canadian members must use a Postal Money Order in U.S. funds. Other foreign members must use an International Postal Money Order or Bank Draft in U.S. funds.
6. *Send your completed membership package to:*

Official Star Wars Fan Club Recruiting  
Contest  
P.O. Box 8905  
University City, CA 91608

7. *This offer is void where prohibited by law.*



### PRIZES

**The Grand Prize** is a replica of the EMPIRE walker as seen in THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. This 18" walker model was made from the original mold, engineered and constructed by the special-effects technicians of Industrial Light and Magic. Only nine of these valuable models are in existence. The Grand Prize will be awarded to the Fan Club member whose recruiting package contains the largest number of valid memberships.

**Second and Third Prizes** are color movie-posters from THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK advertising promotion. These posters (one sheets) have been autographed by the STAR WARS saga creator George Lucas, producer Gary Kurtz and selected EMPIRE special-effects technicians from Industrial Light and Magic. This prize will be awarded to the Fan Club members whose packages contain the second and third largest number of valid memberships.

In the event of a tie, the final winners will be determined at a later drawing. The Grand Prize, Second and Third Prize winners will be notified of the final outcome by mail.

**Additional Prizes.** All recruiting members credited with five or more valid memberships will be awarded a specially-produced Fan Club Rebel Recruiter button. This button, featuring a Bantha drawn by STAR WARS/EMPIRE conceptual artist Ralph McQuarrie, is not available elsewhere.

**SECOND AND THIRD PRIZE (1 each)**  
*Autographed Movie Poster*



### GRAND PRIZE

An EMPIRE Walker Model Complete with Plexiglass Exhibit Case

## NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES NOW AVAILABLE

**Special Compilation Issue** — Includes highlights from issues #1 through #4, originally published in 1978. Complete in one issue, the compilation contains biographical sketches of George Lucas and Gary Kurtz, articles on STAR WARS special effects, an interview with Mark Hamill, a STAR WARS trivia quiz, fan club questions and answers, and more.

*Bantha Tracks #5* — Interview with THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK Director Irvin Kershner, Fan Club Cartoon Contest winners, STAR WARS comic strip news, and introduction of Boba Fett.

*Bantha Tracks #6* — Interview with Harrison Ford, Japanese influences in STAR WARS, questions and answers.

*Bantha Tracks #7* — Interview with Anthony Daniels, introduction of Lando Calrissian, questions and answers.

*Bantha Tracks #8* — Interview with George Lucas, preview page of EMPIRE photographs, transcriptions of actors' phone messages.

*Bantha Tracks #9* — EMPIRE preview in Washington, D.C., Hollywood opening of EMPIRE, animating the Tauntaun, fan club member John Rios profile.

Prices: \$1.00 per Bantha Tracks issue plus \$.50 postage and handling. \$2.50 for Special Compilation Issue plus \$.50 postage and handling. Same postage and handling price good for up to four issues ordered at the same time. For more than four issues ordered at the same time please include an additional \$.50 postage and handling. For Canadian and foreign orders add \$1.00 to total order. U.S. Funds only. No cash is accepted.

Send check or money order to: Official STAR WARS Fan Club, c/o Back Issue Department, P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, CA 91608.



## SPECIAL OFFER TO FAN CLUB MEMBERS!

'Vader in Flames' Embroidered Patch As worn by the cast and crew of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



Producer Gary Kurtz on location in Finse, Norway for the ice planet Hoth scenes.

### PEN PAL SERVICE

If you are interested in having a pen pal, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Fan Club. Please write "Pen Pal" on the outer envelope.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO U.K. FAN CLUB MEMBERS

As the London, England mailing address for the Fan Club has been discontinued, please make note of the following address changes which are effective immediately. For Fan Club information, write in care of the Official Star Wars Fan Club, P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, CA 91608. For Customer Service information, write in care of the Official Star Wars Fan Club, P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

A collector's edition replica of the cast and crew patch from THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK is now available to fan club members. Designed by EMPIRE conceptual artist Ralph McQuarrie, the cast and crew patch commemorates some of the most daring and adventurous location work in film history. Featuring the 'Vader in Flames' logo, this distinctive emblem has been embroidered in seven dazzling colors. Made with the highest quality craftsmanship, the patch (3" x 4½") looks outstanding on clothing or framed for your collection. This is an exclusive fan club offer. The 'Vader in Flames' patch is not available elsewhere.

Send a check or money order for \$3.00 plus \$.50 postage and handling (total \$3.50 per patch) to:

Official STAR WARS Fan Club  
c/o Special Patch Offer  
P.O. Box 8905  
Universal City, CA 91608



Canadian price \$4.50 each postpaid; foreign price \$5.50 each postpaid. U.S. funds only. No cash accepted.

### FORCE NUMBERS

In an effort to improve the Fan Club services, it has become necessary to dispense with the six-digit Force number. ALL members have been assigned to a new number. Your new 10-digit number, preceded by a letter, can be found on the upper left portion of your mailing label. Please use this number at all times when writing the fan club.

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Staff for this issue was Deborah Call, Ira Friedman, Maureen Garrett, Ann Holler, Melanie Paykos, Victoria Ransom and Larry Rothstein.

Official Star Wars Fan Club  
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